

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS****I. General**

Claims 1-36 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-36 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting. The specification stands objected to. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and objections of record.

**II. The Objections To The Specification**

The specification stands objected to as requiring update information with respect to the referenced applications appearing at pages 1, 8, 15, 20, and 29. With respect to the continuing data appearing upon page 1 of the specification, Applicant respectfully asserts that the data contained therein accurately reflects the current status of the referenced applications. Paragraph 46 appearing on page 8 of the specification, paragraph 82 appearing on page 15 of the specification, paragraph 102 appearing on page 20 of the specification, and paragraph 140 appearing at page 29 of the specification have all been amended to include updated information with respect to the application referenced therein. Accordingly, it is respectfully asserted that the objections with respect to the specification should be withdrawn.

**III. The Non-Statutory Double Patenting Rejections**

Claims 1-36 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-29 of commonly owned patent number 5,801,944. Claims 1-36 further stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-48 of commonly owned patent number 6,208,980.

Applicant submits 2 terminal disclaimers, each in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.32(c), to overcome the non-statutory double patenting rejections of record. Accordingly, it is respectfully asserted that the non-statutory double patenting rejections should be withdrawn.

**IV. Summary**

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **“Version with markings**

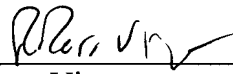
**to show changes made.”**

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-2380, under Order No. 61135/P004CP1CP1C2/10107404 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: March 5, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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**Version With Markings to Show Changes Made**

Paragraph 46 appearing on page 8 of the specification has been amended as follows:

The present invention further provides for a method and system, described in co-pending U.S. application serial no. 08/263,751, now patent number 5,606,507, and incorporated herein by reference, for automatically calculating the appropriate amount of postage for a piece of mail, printing that amount of postage and deducting the printed amount of postage from the total amount of postage stored within the portable postage storage device. In addition, the present invention allows the user to retrieve, select, personalize and print postage indicia.

Paragraph 82 appearing on page 15 of the specification has been amended as follows:

A preferred embodiment of the above described TMU button is disclosed in the co-pending commonly assigned, U. S. application, now patent number 6,199,055, entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING FAULT TOLERANT TRANSACTIONS OVER AN UNSECURED COMMUNICATION CHANNEL," previously incorporated herein by reference. This preferred embodiment includes a TMU button having a processor operating under control of a limited purpose operating code providing secure data storage and interaction.

Paragraph 102 appearing on page 20 of the specification has been amended as follows:

Alternatively, a pair of systems 10 may be linked together through public switched network ("PSN") 102, or other communication gateway such as the Internet or other computer network, via modem 101 or directly through digital telecommunications trunks or other communications links (not shown). Processor based systems 10 located at different U.S. Post Offices may be linked via PSN 102 in a conventional well known manner (such as through modem 101) so that information may be shared between the various Post Offices. Generally, a copy of the POSTAGEMAKER program will be stored within at least one processor-based system at selected U.S. Post Office locations. PSN linkage of processor-

based systems 10 by the Post Office and the user will allow the sharing of information between the various Post Offices and will allow a user to call a number (an authorized Post Office number) and have the Post Office transfer the required amount of postage to a postage storage device 18 installed at a user site by modem. A preferred embodiment of a system and method for conducting transactions, such as that described above, is disclosed in co-pending commonly assigned U.S. application, now patent number 6,199,055, entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING FAULT TOLERANT TRANSACTIONS OVER AN UNSECURED COMMUNICATION CHANNEL," previously incorporated herein by reference.

Paragraph 140 appearing at page 29 of the specification has been amended as follows:

A preferred method for conducting the above described transactions with the button is described in co-pending commonly assigned U.S. application, now patent number 6,199,055, entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING FAULT TOLERANT TRANSACTIONS OVER AN UNSECURED COMMUNICATION CHANNEL," previously incorporated herein by reference.